
From: Liu, Linda
To: Bloom, Jill; Fleming, Sheila; Allen, Elizabeth; Barber, Anthony
Sent: 1/13/2014 6:53:14 PM
Subject: FW: Report and Analysis of Oregon's Forest Practices Act
Attachments: 1_FPA_Pesticide Report_Executive Summary.pdf; OREGON PETITION TO THE CDC_ATSDR_EPA_for website.pdf

FYI.

From: Lisa Arkin [mailto:larkin@beyondtoxics.org]
Sent: Sunday, December 22, 2013 4:13 PM
To: McFadden, Kelly; Stohs, Sheryl; Yackulic, Ted; Schulze, Chad; Villa, Clifford; Liu, Linda
Subject: Report and Analysis of Oregon's Forest Practices Act

Dear EPA Region 10 Agency Leaders,

On December 15, Beyond Toxics released our report on **Oregon's Industrial Forests and Herbicide Use: A Case Study of Risk to People, Drinking Water and Salmon.** I wish to bring this report to your attention because it is relevant to environmental justice, pesticide regulations, forestry practices, and Oregon's coastal nonpoint pollution control program.

The Beyond Toxics report is linked from our website at <http://www.beyondtoxics.org/work/pesticide-reform/forestry-pesticide-project/> [the Executive Summary is attached/ you can download the entire 115-page report]

The report is a comprehensive analysis of:

- Types and quantity of pesticide use on private and state forests
- GIS mapping of pesticide applications
- Special case study of aerial pesticide spray in a rare cold-water salmon habitat sub-watershed
- In depth discussion of the differences between Washington and Idaho forestry chemical regulations

The report concludes with a discussion of areas where the Oregon FPA may not meet federal standards for surface water quality and human health when there is an aerial herbicide application. The report concludes with a series of recommendations for strengthening the Oregon FPA to ensure that it meets scientific and moral standards for protection of surface and ground water, threatened fish and rural residents.

Just 3 startling facts previously hidden from the public:

- Timber companies increased the amount of herbicides they sprayed in rural residential areas and salmon habitat by 99% in just three years and increased the amount of land that was aerially sprayed by 56%.
- Washington and Idaho have stronger laws to protect people, drinking water and wildlife from forestry pesticides! Oregon lags far behind.
- One large timber company consistently sprays dangerous combinations of herbicides by air that rank very high on a scale of environmental damage and harm to human health. Under the Oregon Forest Practices Act, this is perfectly legal.

Also, last week, some of you were sent the **attached Petition** filed by residents of Gold Beach and

Cedar Valley, Curry County, Oregon. The Petition requests a community epidemiological study, procedural investigation and immediate relief from an ongoing pattern of herbicide exposures until the investigation is complete. The petition is presented to the US Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Rural communities in Oregon are chronic victims of drift and pesticide exposure from aerial pesticide sprays conducted by private timber companies. The scope of the problem, and the lack of response from Oregon state agencies suggest that this is becoming an environmental justice issue. The state government is taking advantage of the isolation, the poverty and the lack of political access that is characteristic of rural Oregon communities in the Oregon coast range where aerial pesticide sprays are common forestry practices.

The report on Oregon's Forestry Practice's is also highly relevant to the EPA's finding that there are critical gaps relate to water quality impacts from forestry.

I ask for your involvement and your help ensuring that these issues are not swept under a rug due to politics in the State of Oregon. What is needed is an evaluation from the EPA on these facts and a determination if Oregon's laws fall short of protecting water resources, threatened and endangered species and human health.

Please contact me as indicated below. Thank you in advance for your involvement.

Sincerely,

Lisa Arkin
Executive Director
Beyond Toxics
larkin@beyondtoxics.org
541-465-8860
www.BeyondToxics.org

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